



RPA OFFICERS

2002 – 2003

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JAN - MAR 2003

RPA To Host Live Auction...

As posted on the NET March 27, 2003.

To all RPA members and stamp club members throughout the Central Federation...

We had an RPA meeting this evening and discussed an upcoming stamp auction we are planning. It was decided that we would send an open invitation to all area stamp collectors to join us as well!

So here is your official invitation to join us at **7 PM Thursday evening, April 24**, for an open stamp auction to be held at our meeting place, the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Winton Rd in Brighton.

Collectors are welcome to bring up to 5 lots of their own material to be put up for auction. Sellers set their own minimums and will pay a 10% service fee out of the hammered price to the RPA. Unsold lots will be returned to the owner without any fees.

We especially hope that club members from the Buffalo, Syracuse, and Southern Tier region might be able to join us, so please mention this to them at your next meeting.



ROPEX 2003

JUNE 20-22, 2003

Webster Community Field House

Webster Thomas High School

800 Five Mile Line Rd, Webster, NY

Honoring Transportation Anniversaries

175 Years of US Railroads

100th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers & Powered Flight

50th Anniversary of the Chevrolet Corvette

HOW TO ORDER FIRST-DAY CANCELS

The grace period for collectors to send covers for first-day cancels ends 30 days after a stamp's issue date, unless stated otherwise. Within the grace period, buy the stamp (or stationery item) at your local post office or philatelic center, affix it to an addressed envelope (postage must make up at least the first-class rate) and send under cover to Customer-Affixed Envelopes, Postmaster, (Name of City, State and ZIP Code-9991 or the ZIP+4 Code given). No remittance is required. Most collectors prefer to use peelable return address labels that can be removed after the USPS returns the cover.

Stamp Collector

By Robert Service

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.

They are my very life, for every night
over my catalogues I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starved myself a year;
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine . . .
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak they say), I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
poking among the stamp-bins of the quais;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die. . . .

Poor Monsieur Pns, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread,
But albums worth a million francs.
on them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven:
What did it profit in the end. . .
You can't take stamps to Heaven.

How To Mount and Save Booklets

Stamps issued in booklet form present a challenge to collectors, and it's one of those areas where people split up on opposing sides. You will have to decide for yourself which side you're on, and arrange your collection accordingly!

The purist side thinks that a stamp booklet should be kept in mint condition, exactly as it is purchased from the post office. Now, since the traditional paper-cover stamp booklet of more recent years is sealed on the edge where the user opens it, keeping it mint means not opening that side. The purist might not even do this, but a collector could gently squeeze the still-sealed booklet until it bows open, and peer in at the stamps. A booklet that is intact--still has all its stamps inside--is called an "unexploded" booklet. The term was created before booklets started being sealed on the edge opposite the binding, so unexploded doesn't tell you anything about whether it's still sealed or not, it just says all the stamps are there.

If you want to store an intact booklet, there are several possibilities. You can get a small file drawer and put the booklets in there, separating them by dividers marked according to year date, catalogue number(s), etc. The booklets could be stored as is, or in glassines or plastic protectors.

There also are commercial albums for booklets. The largest size of corner mount (a plastic-and-paper triangle with glue on the back) will work for a booklet; use a mount on each of two opposite corners of the booklet.

If you want to keep your booklets in a binder, there are plastic sheets available divided into pockets, and the booklets can be inserted intact in the pockets.

If you'd like to be able to see the stamps inside the booklet, then you're on the opposite side from the purists, but you're not the only booklet collector who feels this way.

Once you open the booklet flat, you can place it on the album page using corner mounts, or use a regular stamp mount of the correct height and length. There also are plastic pages with slots that will accommodate an opened booklet.

However you store your booklets, treat them gently to avoid creases and dog-eared corners, because the condition of the booklet itself is important, as well as the stamps inside it.

My View From Biloxi by Ada Prill



I have gone to a lot of stamp shows over the past few years - indeed, it's one of my favorite aspects of the hobby. Every show shines in some area, and I enjoy them all, but for several years now my personal favorite has been AmeriStamp Expo, the winter stamp show of the APS and AAPE. AmeriStamp is a big show - roughly twice the size of ROPEX - but it is not as

overwhelming as the much-bigger APS summer show, STAMPHOW. Although there are always more meetings than I can possibly attend, many exhibits that I still haven't seen at show's end, and too many dealers for me to look through every beckoning cover box, it is still MOSTLY doable.

Another nice thing about AmeriStamp is that it is held in relatively warmer areas of the country at a time of year when I am more than ready for a break from winter. (We departed from Rochester on a windy ten-degree morning and left our plane in Gulfport-Biloxi a few hours later in 68-degree comfort.)

The AmeriStamp held in Biloxi, Mississippi, February 28-March 2 of this year was one of the best shows I have ever attended. The local committee did a superb job of publicizing the show, and turnout was excellent from the local area as well as from snowbirds like me. People were friendly and helpful, and the smooth running of the show was a tribute to both the local committee and Ken Martin and his staff from APS.

AmeriStamp exhibits are always interesting, as they are limited to one-frame, display, and other non-traditional areas. This year there was an additional competition among exhibits that have won a "most popular" award - RPA's Marge Schleining was represented by her "Women of the West."

There were two U.S. First-Day ceremonies, for the \$1 Wisdom stamp on Friday and the 1c Tiffany Lamp issue on Saturday. I went to the Wisdom ceremony, but it was somewhat less than satisfying to have a stamp honoring a New York City landmark issued in Mississippi - Wisdom is a feature of Rockefeller Center, rather far from the Gulf beaches of Biloxi. I was unable to attend the Tiffany ceremony because it was held at the same time as a meeting I had to attend, but reports were that it was an enjoyable occasion.

On Saturday there was a Candidates' Forum for all candidates for the upcoming APS elections. Unfortunately it was sparsely attended. RPA's Nancy Clark, a candidate for APS President, participated; her opponent, Janet Klug did not. George Fekete and I, along with our running mate Ken Lawrence, co-candidates for Board-of-Vice-Presidents, felt it was important to be available to the members, so we took part, but RPA member Ann Triggles and her two running mates, although they were at the show, declined to participate. RPA's Jack Flannery, a candidate for Director-at-Large, was unable to take part as he had planned because the impending birth of his second grandchild kept him in Rochester. Six of the ten candidates for Director-at-Large were there, as were the unopposed candidates for Secretary and Treasurer. In all the candidates greatly out-

numbered the audience, and few questions were asked of anyone. Very disappointing.

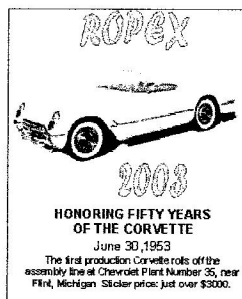
I did my part towards keeping the dealers happy - especially one of the dealers in the dollar-cover area, where dealers who sell stamps for no more than a dime or covers for no more than a dollar get reduced booth prices. I did buy a few dollar-plus items from Ray Coughlin, brother of RPA's Karen Barber, and from Buffalo's Paula Leszak (Cover Connection), however.

The Biloxi show was in the Mississippi Coast Convention Center, just across the street from the actual coast. Everything was modern and clean, and the lighting was excellent. There was plenty of seating away from the bourse area, so dealers' chairs were generally not clogged by people doing show-and-tell. There was food on site, so it was not necessary to leave the show during the day, saving precious time for shopping or admiring exhibits. Details like this make a good show into a great show.

The show was held the weekend before Mardi Gras, which is a major holiday in that part of the country - schools, offices, state and local government buildings, and even some banks close on Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras decorations were evident everywhere, and many people (including the show judges - and me) were decked out in colorful purple, green, and gold beads - the official colors of the holiday. Paula Leszak's mother sported a Mardi Gras hat and earrings as well. (My own beads were obtained some two weeks earlier, thrown by the marchers in the Krewe de Vieux parade in New Orleans, which is the only "official" Mardi Gras parade in the city's fabled French Quarter.)

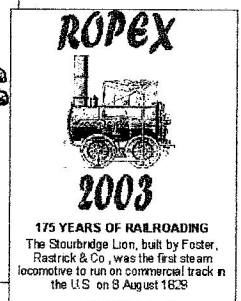
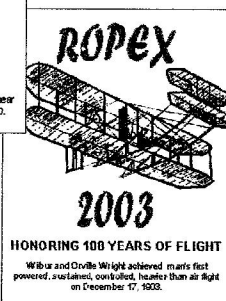
On a personal note, I was given the tangible part of an award I actually received in 2001, the Herdenberg Award for service to the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Recipients of this award get to designate their own prize, and I chose to receive a magnifier necklace, which was custom made in Canada and presented to me at the AAPE meeting in Biloxi by AAPE past president Charles Verge. Most of you will see it at ROPEX, if not before; it's optically excellent, and I will be wearing it often.

I would be very happy to return to Biloxi for another winter show.





A SASE required for each order of 3 covers or 50¢ extra per order. Send checks to club PO box.

ROPEX Cachets
In full color
served
\$2 each/ 3 for \$5



FUTURE PROGRAMS

APRIL 10 APS Slide Show The French Third Republic, Part I: The Siege of Paris, Emergency Issues, and Balloon Posts SILENT AUCTION	ANNUAL BANQUET MAY 8 CATERED AT TWELVE CORNERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	JUNE 12 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 20-22 ROPEX 
APRIL 24 LIVE AUCTION 7 PM SHARP Each member can bring up to 5 lots. Set up begins at 6:30 PM. Come early and participate.	MAY 22 APS Slide Show The French Third Republic, Part II: Postal Service in War and Revolution SILENT AUCTION	JUNE 26 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  SILENT AUCTION

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1913. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, September through June, at **The Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S Winton Rd.** The church hall opens at 7 PM for informal get-togethers. The meetings start at 7:30 PM, followed by a program – slide show, speaker, or auction. Annual dues are \$15 per adult and \$5 for junior members.

Hinges & Tongs
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